



The Congressional Children's Study Working Group

Rep. Doris O. Matsui, Chair
Rep. Christopher Smith, Chair

Investing in research, investing in children's health

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Rep. Matsui Criticizes Budget That Freezes Funding for the National Children's Study

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Today, Reps. Doris Matsui (CA-05) criticized the President's budget request for Fiscal Year 2009, which would eliminate funding for the National Children's Study and freeze funding for the National Institutes of Health (NIH). The National Children's Study is funded through the NIH.

"Once again, the President has neglected the priorities of the American people. I will continue to work to ensure that the National Children's Study receives full funding now and in the future," said Rep. Matsui.

"I am dismayed that the President has chosen to ignore the very real need for funding that will benefit the health of America's youth. Rep. Matsui was instrumental in maintaining full funding for the National Children's Study in the Appropriations bills for Fiscal Year 2008, and launched a Congressional Working Group to advocate for the National Children's Study (NCS) in Congress.

The Congressional Children's Study Working Group works to keep Members updated on the status, needs, and successes of the National Children's Study. The NCS was created by Congress in the Children's Health Act of 2000 (Public Law 106-310), and it is the nation's largest longitudinal study of children's health. This unique health study deserves consistent support from Congress, and the Congressional Children's Study Working Group will be the vehicle to raise awareness of the NCS, advocate for its success, and promote its accomplishments on Capitol Hill.

There has been a recent increase in childhood health afflictions, including autism, asthma, and diabetes. The Study will seek to analyze how environmental factors impact children's health, and is the first long-term study to address this issue. It will examine important issues and seeks to identify the root causes of many childhood and adult diseases. The overall goal of the Study is to improve the health and well-being of American children.

"There has been an alarming trend of diseases and conditions affecting our nation's youth in recent years. It is critical that we continue to fund the National Children's Study in order to

make sure that future generations of American children have every opportunity to grow up safe and healthy,” said Rep. Matsui.

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